

Appl. No. 10/030,303

Attorney Docket No. 10541-927

I. Listing of Claims

1-17. (Cancelled).

18. (New): A device for forming a planiform piece having a support material and a cladding sheet intended for the interior fittings of motor vehicles, the device comprising:

a mould including a punch and a die for covering the support material, on at least one of its faces with a cladding sheet, wherein an air gap is defined between the punch and the die and the punch and the die are movable towards one another to permit the closing of the mould in a forming direction and wherein the support material and cladding have a first zone located in the air gap and a second zone projecting from said air gap;

a pivotable member mounted on at least one of the die and the punch;
and

a cutting tool mounted to the pivotable member for cutting the support material, the cutting tool is positionable between the cladding and the support material in the vicinity of the limit between the first zone and the second zone by the pivotal movement of the pivotable member, and

wherein pivotable member cooperates with at least one of the punch and the die to simultaneously cut and form the planiform piece when the mould moves from the first to the second configuration.

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19. (New): The device according to claim 18, further comprising an intermediate member rotatably securing the pivotable member to at least one of the punch and the die.

20. (New): The device according to claim 19, wherein the intermediate member rotatably secures the pivotable member to the die.

21. (New): The device according to claim 19, wherein the intermediate member rotatably secures the pivotable member to the punch.

22. (New): The device according to claim 19, further comprising a jack fixedly mounted at a first end to the intermediate member and pivotably mounted at a second end to the pivotable member.

23. (New): The device according to claim 18, further comprising a jack fixedly mounted at a first end to the mould and pivotably mounted at a second end to the pivotable member.

24. (New): The device according to claim 18, wherein the mould further comprises at least one stop mounted to one of the punch and the die outside the air gap for pressing on the pivotable member when the mould is in the second configuration.

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25. (New): The device according to claim 24, further comprising at least two stops wherein one of the at least two stops is mounted to the punch and the other of the at least two stops is mounted to the die outside the air gap for pressing on the pivotable member when the mould is in the second configuration.

26. (New): The device according to claim 18, wherein the cutting tool further comprises a non-cutting portion for contacting the cladding sheet and holding the cladding against the die as the die is moved toward the punch.

27. (New): The device according to claim 18, further comprising a frame attached to the mould for contacting the cladding sheet and holding the cladding against the die as the die is moved toward the punch.

28. (New): The device according to claim 27, wherein the frame is attached to a jack, wherein the jack is attached to mould for actuating the frame to contact the cladding sheet and hold the cladding against the die as the die is moved toward the punch.

29. (New): The device according to claim 19, further comprising elastic return means located between a fixed point on the mould and the pivotable member to restore pivotable member to an initial position.

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30. (New): The device according to claim 19, further comprising elastic return means located between a fixed point on the mould and the intermediate member to restore intermediate member to an initial position.

31. (New): A method for forming a planiform piece having a support material and a cladding sheet intended for the interior fittings of motor vehicles, the method comprising:

covering the support material on at least one of its faces with a cladding sheet using a mould including a punch and a die, wherein an air gap is defined between the punch and the die and the punch and the die are movable towards one another to permit the closing of the mould in a forming direction and wherein the support material and cladding have a first zone located in the air gap and a second zone projecting from said air gap;

positioning a cutting tool between the cladding and the support material in the vicinity of the limit between the first zone and the second zone by the pivotal movement of a pivotable member wherein the pivotable member is mounted on at least one of the die and the punch; and

cutting the support material with the cutting tool mounted to the pivotable member, wherein the pivotable member cooperates with at least one of the punch and the die to simultaneously cut and form the planiform piece when the mould moves in the forming direction.

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32. (New): The method according to claim 31, further comprising rotatably securing the pivotable member to an intermediate member wherein the intermediate member is attached to at least one of the punch and the die.

33. (New): The method according to claim 32, wherein rotatably securing the pivotable member further comprises securing the intermediate member to the die.

34. (New): The method according to claim 32, wherein rotatably securing the pivotable member further comprises securing the intermediate member to the punch.

35. (New): The method according to claim 31, wherein positioning a cutting tool further comprises actuating a jack fixedly mounted at a first end to the intermediate member and pivotably mounted at a second end to the pivotable member.

36. (New): The method according to claim 31, wherein positioning a cutting tool further comprises actuating a jack fixedly mounted at a first end to the mould and pivotably mounted at a second end to the pivotable member.

37. (New): The method according to claim 31, further comprising pressing on the pivotable member when the mould is moving in the forming direction with at least one stop mounted to one of the punch and the die outside the air gap for.

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38. (New): The method according to claim 37, wherein pressing on the pivotable member further comprises pressing on the pivotable member when the mould is moving in the forming direction with at least two stops wherein one of the at least two stops is mounted to the punch and the other of the at least two stops is mounted to the die outside the air gap.

39. (New): The method according to claim 31, further comprising contacting the cladding sheet and holding the cladding against the die as the die is moved toward the punch.

40. (New): The method according to claim 39, wherein contacting the cladding sheet and holding the cladding further comprises contacting and holding the cladding with a frame attached to the mould.

41. (New): The method according to claim 40, wherein contacting and holding the cladding using the frame further comprises actuating the frame to contact the cladding sheet and hold the cladding against the die as the die is moved toward the punch using a jack, wherein the jack is attached to mould.

42. (New): The method according to claim 31, further comprising restoring the pivotable member to an initial position using an elastic return means located between a fixed point on the mould and the pivotable member.

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43. (New): The method according to claim 32, further comprising restoring the intermediate member to an initial position using elastic return means located between a fixed point on the mould and the intermediate member.